



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Schroeder



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The walleye bite has slowed down recently in the Chamberlain area. The walleye bite has slowed down at Ft. Thompson as well. Fishermen have been catching smaller walleyes 14-16 inches in the Chamberlain area. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throw able device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



Hunting Report:

The 2014 Hunting and Trapping Handbooks are now available!

Canada goose season, Unit 2, opened west of Hwy 50 south, down to 350th Ave on November 3rd. The daily limit for Unit 2 is 4 geese. White-fronted geese daily limit is 2. Light geese daily possession is 50.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opened September 27th east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opened October 11th which includes west of Hwy 50. Several hunters have reported harvesting ducks near the Holoubek Game Production Area south of Kimball. More ducks have been moving into the area every week. Red head flocks have been moving into the area lately. Remember the daily limit for red heads is 2 per hunter.

Dove season closed November 9th.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20th. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The regular pheasant season opened for residents and nonresidents on October 18th. Hunters reported seeing many roosters on the public hunting areas near Chamberlain. Hunters have reported seeing most of the pheasant south of Kimball.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13th.

Bow season for deer opened September 27th state wide.

Fall turkey season opened November 1st. There have been reports of turkeys on Boyer GPA recently.

East River rifle season opens November 22nd. Be sure to wear your required orange garments. Reminder: If you shoot a deer and it runs onto private property or property you don't have permission to enter, you must receive permission to retrieve your deer.

Stay safe!

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Small ponds and sloughs are frozen over. Small lakes have had no use. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches. Bays on Lake Oahe are freezing over, boat ramps are out.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report:

Pudwell Dam: Fishing activity has been low. Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts the past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. The fish size is small with some northern pike.

Morristown West: There is no activity in this area. Perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

Trail City Dam: Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: Activity is low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. There are some large crappies and bluegill.

Little Moreau #2: Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. It was stocked with 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014. Another stocking of 1200 rainbow trout took place the third week of September.

Isabel Lake: There is some activity taking place in this area. Walleyes are being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught also. People should try fishing from the new fishing dock.

Eagle Butte Dam: There is little activity. The year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass and perch numbers are very good in this area.



Hunting Report:

Geese and ducks are moving out of the area fast, due to the recent cold snap. Do your scouting and don't forget to ask permission. Grouse is open, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the grouse harvested were young birds. There were some reports of partridge in spots. Pheasant is open but pressure is very high in the Fire steel and Timber lake area. Numbers are better than last year but still below the ten year average. Hunters had mixed success averaging about one bird a piece. There are a lot of hunters on public lands and WIA, which result in birds that are flighty. Deer season has been slow; numbers are down from last year.

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

There is patchy ice on the river with lots of ice chunks floating depending on the wind and direction. If warmer weather doesn't arrive it may be ice season by thanksgiving or shortly after.



Hunting Report:

With corn harvested, cold weather, and rut deer are moving a lot. The bucks are chasing does pretty hard right now. Pheasants are grouped into what is left for available cover. Good hunting to be had right now if you can outlast the cold. There are lots of snow geese around in this area.

Gregory County

Hans Walleiser



Fishing Report:

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report:

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Jones County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River Report below*

No Report



Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters have been moderately successful. Most pheasant hunters experienced success on private grounds that manage for upland game birds. Hunters are reminded to obtain permission before entering private land. Hunters that are unarmed are allowed to enter private ground **ONLY** to retrieve downed small game. Hunters are not allowed to enter private ground, without permission, to attempt to flush, locate or retrieve downed small game while armed. Dogs are considered an extension of the hunter and should not be allowed on to private property other than to retrieve downed small game.

Lyman County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishermen are experiencing decent success on Lake Francis Case. Most anglers are catching smaller 12"-14" walleye and smallmouth. Determined anglers have been able to scratch out a few limits of fish in the 16"-20" range. Walleye are being caught below the Big Bend Dam at Ft. Thompson and along the Legion Memorial Causeway. Anglers experiencing the most success are fishing around sunset.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant populations are up slightly from last year. Hunters are experiencing thick cover due to excellent growing conditions throughout the summer. Hunters are strongly encouraged to identify their target and what lies beyond before they shoot. Hunters wishing to road hunt are strongly encouraged to read and understand the road hunting right-of-way regulations found on page 38 of the 2014 hunting handbook. If there are any questions feel free to contact a SD GF&P representative at any of the GF&P Offices.

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Stanley County

Josh Thompson



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

Twin Dams – Little fishing activity observed.

Hayes Lake – Little fishing activity observed.

Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands – Little fishing activity observed.

Lake Oahe – Little fishing activity observed.

Lake Sharpe – Walleye bite has been pretty good at the Tailraces lately, especially in the evenings.



Hunting Report:

Remember that this coming weekend (November 22nd) is the East River Deer Opener. Hunters with a firearm must wear fluorescent orange while hunting.

Pheasant – Bird numbers have been good. Anticipate that birds will be seeking more shelter and cover in these colder temperatures.

Grouse – We are still seeing a good mix of sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken. The birds are starting to bunch into larger groups.

Goose – Canada Geese numbers are looking good. The cold weather has started pushing the northern birds into the area.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Sully County
Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Fishing has been pretty slow out on Lake Oahe, and non-existent on Cottonwood Lake. About the only consistent walleye fishing has been in the Cheyenne River.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl hunting in Sully County has been pretty bad due to a general lack of shallow water. Sand hill crane, white-fronted geese, snow geese, Canada geese, and ducks have been moving into the area in decent numbers in the last couple of days. The snow and cold weather will push many of these birds further south. Many of the water holes left should freeze up in the next week pushing out the birds even faster.

Pheasant hunting in Sully County has been very good, with many hunters bringing home limits of pheasants on a regular basis. With most of the crops out of the fields and adding recent snow and colder weather, pheasant hunting should get even better.

Deer hunting is starting to look pretty good with more and more crops out of the field. The deer are starting to get into rut at this point. Archery hunters are finding some good success, and east river rifle season this weekend (November 22nd) should be excellent.

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Chris Dekker



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

No Report



Hunting Report:

Cold weather has kept a lot of guys out of the field for pheasant hunting. People are gearing up for East River Deer this weekend, Nov 22nd.

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

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Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

Missouri River report:

Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe

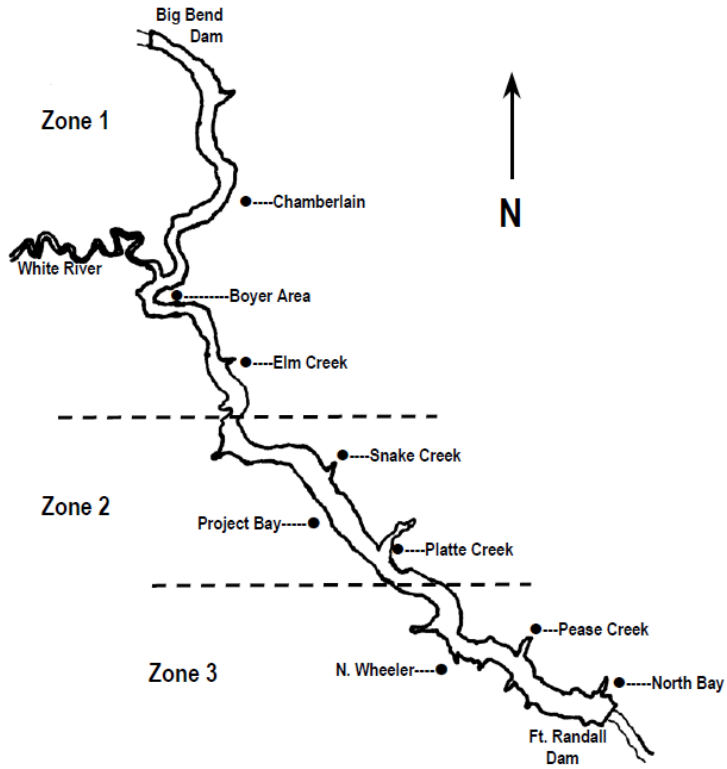
Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe

No Report

Lake Sharpe

No Report



Lake Francis Case

Rachel Tribble

Zone 1 – No Report

Zone 2 – No Report

Zone 3 – No Report

Reminder: Walleye/Sauger daily limit is 4 fish per day.
The minimum length limit is 15” and the daily limit may
include no more than one walleye/sauger 20” or longer.